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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takehiro KATA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 10/518,017

Examiner: J. MACKEY

Filed: December 14, 2004

Docket No.: 122056

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING LAMINATED MOLD AND LAMINATED MOLD

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 19, 2006 Restriction and Election of Species Requirements, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 12-18 and 22-28, drawn to a method of manufacturing a laminated mold, with traverse. Applicants further provisionally elect Species A, drawn to laminating sheets followed by removing excess portions by a shot blast, with traverse. At least claims 12-14, 18 and 22-25 read on the elected species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

James E. Golladay, II  
Registration No. 58,182

JAO:JEG/tls

Date: July 13, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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